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Man Admits to Killing 77-Year-Old Woman in Hit-and-Run

A man pleaded no contest today to fatally hitting a 77-year-old woman with his vehicle and then fleeing last year in South Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Brandon Rosendo Mazariego, 26, of South Los Angeles entered an open plea to the court of no contest to one felony count of hit-and-run driving resulting in death to another person, one misdemeanor count of driving with a suspended license and one infraction for driving without evidence of financial responsibility. He also admitted allegations of a prior felony conviction and admitted violating his probation in that case.

An open plea means a sentence was not negotiated with the District Attorney's Office.

Sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 16 in Department 120 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. The defendant faces a possible maximum sentence of eight years and six months in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Anastasia Sagorsky prosecuted case BA472974.

On the morning of Nov. 13, 2018, Mazariego was driving an SUV on Budlong Avenue and turned onto West 28th Street, where he struck Maria Asuncion Reynoso with his vehicle as she was crossing the street. He made no effort to stop and continued driving.

The victim, who lived a few blocks away, died of her injuries.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, South Traffic Division.

In October 2016, Mazariego was convicted in case BA441477 of one felony count of first-degree burglary, person present, for which he was on probation when the crash occurred. The court also is scheduled to address sentencing on the probation matter on Aug. 16 in Department 120.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.